



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Planning Committee
From: Karen Chisholme, Climate Change Coordinator
Date: Thursday, April 08, 2021
Subject: **Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Network Study**

Background:

The County of Wellington has partnered with the City of Guelph, Our Energy Guelph, Grey-Bruce Public Health, Nuclear Innovation Initiative and the Counties of Perth, Huron, Dufferin, Bruce and Grey to explore the creation of a regional electric vehicle (EV) charging network. This project is recommended in the recently endorsed Future Focused – a climate change mitigation plan for the County of Wellington.

The regional EV charging network will examine the existing EV charging services in the study area, identify gaps in the current service offerings and propose options to expand the network. Recommendations for network expansion will consider locations that will support visitor amenities, recreation, shopping, dining and other local services as well as optimal charger locations along travel routes.

On behalf of the project partners, County of Wellington will submit a funding request to Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund (Study: Transportation networks and commuting options) to fund up to 50% of the cost of the plan. The objective of this fund is to “fund feasibility studies or initiatives that may reduce pollution in Canadian community by improving transportation systems and networks or encourage people to switch to less polluting transportation options.”

The estimated cost of the plan is \$70,000. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be signed to outline the partnership agreement between signatory partners including their commitment of \$5,000 and staff time to this project. A verbal funding commitment has been received from Dufferin, Guelph, Perth and Huron. We expect to receive confirmation from Bruce and Grey Counties in the next few weeks. Discussions are ongoing with St. Mary’s and Stratford to include these municipalities in the project study area. Our Energy Guelph and Grey-Bruce Public Health will not be signatory partners under the MOU however, will continue to provide input into the project.

Wellington County’s Climate Change Coordinator will serve as project manager for this project including issuing a Request for Proposal (coordinated with Purchasing and Risk) to acquire consulting services (dependent on funding) that will provide the following:

- Geospatial analysis of existing charging stations in study area.
- Modeled design of future regional network.
- Criteria for site selection with emphasis on tourism and economic development.
- Identification of proposed charging locations.
- Identification of opportunities for solar array charging station.

The project is anticipated to start in September 2021 and end in March 2022.

Financial Implications

The County's contribution of \$5,000 to this project can be accommodated within the 2021 budget.

Recommendation:

That this report be received for information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'KChisholme'.

Karen Chisholme
Climate Change Coordinator